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Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 ISO-00 AF-06 ARA-06 NEA-10 IO-10

OIC-02 L-03 AGR-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00 CIEP-01 FRB-03 OMB-01

ABF-01 H-02 PRS-01 PA-01 USIA-06 GSA-01 /102 W
---------- 012722
R 110935Z JUL 75
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2781
INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EIND, EGEN
SUBJ: RUBBER: FOURTH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, IRSG, JULY 7, 1975

REF: THIGPEN/POLIK TRANSMITTAL SLIP OF JUNE 11

1. THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE INTERNATIONAL RUBBER STUDY GROUP (IRSG) WAS HELD IN LONDON THE MORNING OF JULY 7, ATTENDED BY LONDON REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UK (DELL, CHAIRMAN), THE FRG (BEHRENDT), INDONESIA (USODO NOTODIRDJO), JAPAN (KASHIWAGI), MALAYSIA (FATAH BIN ZAKARIA), THAILAND (PRAVIT KLONGWATHANAKITH), THE US (THIGPEN), AND THE USSR (MITROFANOV). DRAFT AGENDA FOR MEETING SUBMITTED WITH REFERENCE WAS APPROVED.

2. MAJOR ITEMS COVERED WERE:
ITEM 2(B). INVITATIONS TO JOIN GROUP. NO RESPONSE TO FEELERS TO VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA. PRC EMBASSY, LONDON, HAD INFORMED SECRETARIAT ORALLY THAT PRC MEMBERSHIP WAS UNLIKELY.
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ITEM 3. STABILIZATION OF NR PRICES. PRODUCER

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REPRESENTATIVES DECLINED TO COMMENT ON RECENT CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN PRODUCERS. CHAIRMAN DELL, BEHRENDT AND MITROFANOV SPOKE FOR ALL CONSUMERS IN EXPRESSING HOPE THAT IF PRODUCERS WISHED TO HAVE USEFUL DISCUSSIONS ON THIS ISSUE AT JAKARTA, DOCUMENTS SETTING FORTH PRODUCER VIEWS AS A RESULT OF THEIR CONSULTATIONS WOULD BE CIRCULATED TO GOVERNMENTS IN ADVANCE OF MEETING.
ITEM 4. CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA FOR JAKARTA MEETING. DRAFT TRANSMITTED BY REFERENCE WAS REORDERED AND SLIGHTLY EXPANDED (NEW DRAFT WILL BE TRANSMITTED).
ITEM 5. APPROVAL OF REPORT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. DRAFT SUBMITTED BY SECRETARIAT WAS WITHDRAWN BY DELL WHO PROMISED FULLER REPORT.
ITEM 6. OTHER BUSINESS. SINCE THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S SALARY IS LINKED TO UK CIVIL SERVICE GRADES AND UNDER A RECENT WAGE SCALE REORGANIZATION HIS SALARY GROUP WAS PLACED IN THE FIFTH STEP OF THE NEW FIVE-STEP SCALE AT THE UK ASSISTANT SECRETARY LEVEL (ROUGHLY EQUIVALENT TO OFFICE DIRECTOR IN DEPARTMENT), IT WAS AGREED THAT THE PRESENT INCUMBENT SHOULD RECEIVE POUNDS 10,570, ANNUAL RATE, FROM JANUARY 1, 1975, AS ADJUSTED TO POUNDS 11,000 ON APRIL 1, 1975 (PREVIOUSLY, POUNDS 8,100). NO DECISION WAS TAKEN ON LONG-RUN QUESTION OF SALARY FOR POSSIBLE SUCCESSOR TO PRESENT INCUMBENT UPON HIS RETIREMENT.
ITEM 7. DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING. OCTOBER 27, 1975 AT JAKARTA.

3. AFTER FORMAL CLOSURE, BEHRENDT ASKED FOR FLOOR TO MAKE "PERSONAL AND UNOFFICIAL" STATEMENT. HE SAID HIS GOVERNMENT WAS VERY MUCH INTERESTED IN THE ROLE THAT THE PRODUCERS FORESAW FOR THE IRSG AND WAS NOT "TOO HAPPY" WITH THE PRESENT SITUATION. HE SAID PRODUCER'S MUST SPEAK CLEARLY ABOUT JUST WHAT THEY WANTED SINCE THE IRSG OBVIOUSLY WAS OF LIMITED UTILITY IN ITS PRESENT ROLE. THE MALAYSIAN DELEGATE DISPUTED THIS CHARACTERIZATION, NOTING THAT THE IRSG WAS "A STUDY GROUP" AND AS SUCH DID PERFORM A USEFUL FUNCTION, PARTICULARLY IN PROVISION OF STATISTICS. A SUGGESTION BY CHAIRMAN DELL THAT "FUTURE ROLE OF THE IRSG" BE ADDED TO THE JAKARTA
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MEETING AGENDA WAS NOT TAKEN UP SINCE, AS THE USREP POINTED OUT, T/HE DRAFT AGENDA AS NOW CONSTRUCTED OFFERS AMPLE SCOPE FOR SUCH DISCUSSION. IN REPLY TO A QUESTION DURING THIS INFORMAL INTERCHANGE CONCERNING THE US POSITION ON PRICE STABILIZATION, THE USREP SAID WE WOULD OF COURSE BE WILLING TO LOOK AT ANY PROPOSALS THE PRODUCERS WISHED TO PUT FORTH, BUT THAT PERSONALLY HE HAD SERIOUS DOUBTS THAT NR WOULD LEND ITSELF TO TREAT-

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MENT UNDER THE INTERNATIONAL COMMODITY AGREEMENT MECHANISM, TO WHICH DELL REPLIED, "WE HAVE A SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT POSITION, WE WOULD WELCOME A COMMODITY AGREEMENT."

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